

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Kindly amend the specification as follows:

On page 1 of the specification, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 4 as follows:

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application 09/551,160, filed April 14, 2000, which claims benefit of priority from U.S. Provisional Application 60/129,324, filed April 14, 1999, which is both of which are hereby incorporated by reference as if fully set forth.

On page 10 of the specification, please amend the paragraph beginning on line 23 as follows:

Both compounds (1 and 2) may be considered intermediates for the production of additional DPP derivatives since the cyano groups of compound 2 and the cyano and carboxyl carbonyl groups of compound 1 are functionalities that may be readily modified further.